



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>



*A short history of the soke of Spaldwick,
(Spaldwick, Storr Longa, Easton, Barham, ...*

S. Inskip Ladds

Bn 3917.2

Harvard College Library



BOUGHT FROM GIFTS
FOR THE PURCHASE OF ENGLISH
HISTORY AND LITERATURE

—
“SUBSCRIPTION OF 1916”

HUNTINGDONSHIRE HISTORICAL SERIES.

A

SHORT HISTORY

OF THE

SOKE OF SPALDWICK,

(Spaldwick, Stow Longa, Easton,
Barham, and Little Catworth)

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

BY

S. INSKIP LADDS,
A.R.I.B.A.

Reprinted from the "Huntingdonshire Herald."

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

SAINT IVES:

"HUNTINGDONSHIRE POST" PRINTING WORKS.

1902.



HUNTINGDONSHIRE HISTORICAL SERIES.

A
SHORT HISTORY
OF THE
SOKE OF SPALDWICK,
(Spaldwick, Stow Longa, Easton,
Barham, and Little Catworth)
HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

BY
S. INSKIP LADDS,
A.R.I.B.A.

Reprinted from the "Huntingdonshire Post."

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

SAINT IVES:
"HUNTINGDONSHIRE POST" PRINTING WORKS.
1902.

B-2 3917.2

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

NOV 11 1916

SUBSCRIPTION OF 1916

P R E F A C E .

This account of the Soke of Spaldwick was written in the first place for the "Huntingdonshire Post." It was then thought that it would be well to reprint it in a more permanent form, in the hope that other Parishes might be similarly treated, and thus that the great want of a County History of Huntingdon might, to some extent, be met. Thanks are especially due to Henry Dawson, Esq., Editor of the "Huntingdonshire Post," and his Staff, for the care taken in correcting the various misprints—inevitable to a newspaper,—and also to the Revd. G. E. Sharland, the Revd. W. M. Noble, and the Revd. T. M. N. Owen, for communicating several interesting facts, and particularly to the first-named of these three gentlemen for kindly contributing more than half the illustrations.

S. INSKIP LADDS.

*Market Place,
Huntingdon,
Easter, 1902.*



P. Brewster
24/7/03.



The Soke of Spaldwick.

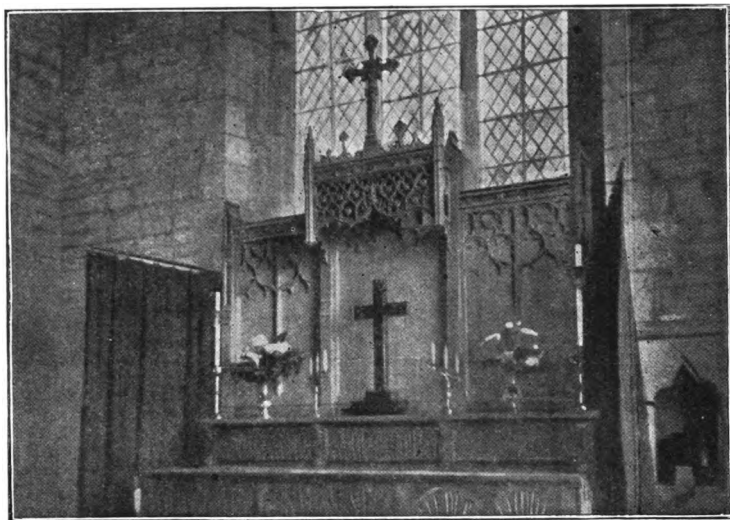
IN the year 991, when Ethelred the Unready was King of England, Spaldwick belonged to a noble Duke, Brithnoth by name. Four years previously Brithnoth had attacked the Danes at Malden, in Essex, and defeated them with great slaughter, and they now returned, vowing vengeance. It would appear that Brithnoth was away from home, for he hurried back to Malden, and coming to the Abbey of Ramsey on his way, he requested entertainment and provision for his men; the Abbot refused to entertain any but himself and seven companions, whereupon he pressed on to Ely, where he and his men were hospitably received, and on the morrow, coming into the Chapter House, and returning thanks to the Abbot and Convent, he in recompense immediately gave them the capital manor of Spaldwick, and others, and, on certain conditions, Somersham and many other estates besides.

And so, Spaldwick having come into the possession of the Monks of Ely, we hear little more of it until William the Norman caused the famous Domesday Book to be compiled. One thing, however, we do hear: Bishop Aedelwold having purchased Bluntisham between the years 1008 and 1015, and a lawsuit following, it was stated in evidence that "in the whole County of Huntingdon, there was not land so free, which through forfeiture could not be lost, excepting two hides near Spaldwick." King Edward the Confessor's Charter to the Abbey of Ely confirms to it "Spaldwick with its appurtenances," which we take to mean Stow, Easton, Barham, and Little Catworth.

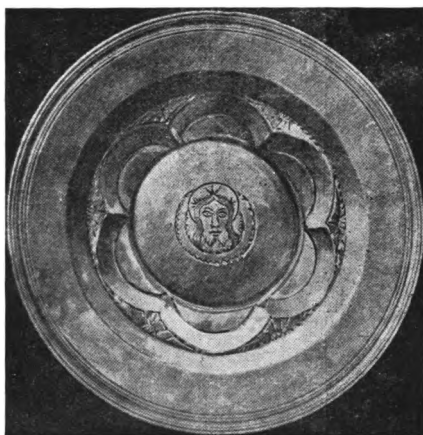
When Domesday Book was ordered to be compiled, the Abbot of Ely caused a schedule of the Abbey property to be drawn up, of which the following is a translation of the part relating to Spaldwick:—

"In Spaldwick the Abbot of Ely had one Manor of 15 hides paying geld, between the Manor and the Hamlets of Stow, Easton and Barham, and 15 ploughs can till the land; that Lord had 4 carucates in demesne in thainland

STOW LONGA CHURCH.



New Reredos.



SKETCH OF
HALL MARK
ON BACK.

x 1/4 1/2 inch.



The Paten.

FROM PHOTOS BY
S. INSKIP LADDS,
A.R.I.B.A.



The Soke of Spaldwick.

IN the year 991, when Ethelred the Unready was King of England, Spaldwick belonged to a noble Duke, Brithnoth by name. Four years previously Brithnoth had attacked the Danes at Malden, in Essex, and defeated them with great slaughter, and they now returned, vowing vengeance. It would appear that Brithnoth was away from home, for he hurried back to Malden, and coming to the Abbey of Ramsey on his way, he requested entertainment and provision for his men; the Abbot refused to entertain any but himself and seven companions, whereupon he pressed on to Ely, where he and his men were hospitably received, and on the morrow, coming into the Chapter House, and returning thanks to the Abbot and Convent, he in recompense immediately gave them the capital manor of Spaldwick, and others, and, on certain conditions, Semershams and many other estates besides.

And so, Spaldwick having come into the possession of the Monks of Ely, we hear little more of it until William the Norman caused the famous Domesday Book to be compiled. One thing, however, we do hear: Bishop Adelwold having purchased Bluntisham between the years 1008 and 1015, and a lawsuit following, it was stated in evidence that "in the whole County of Huntingdon, there was not land so free, which through forfeiture could not be lost, excepting two hides near Spaldwick." King Edward the Confessor's Charter to the Abbey of Ely confirms to it "Spaldwick with its appurtenances," which we take to mean Stow, Easton, Barham, and Little Catworth.

When Domesday Book was ordered to be compiled, the Abbot of Ely caused a schedule of the Abbey property to be drawn up, of which the following is a translation of the part relating to Spaldwick:—

"In Spaldwick the Abbot of Ely had one Manor of 15 hides paying geld, between the Manor and the Hamlets of Stow, Easton and Barham, and 15 ploughs can till the land; that Lord had 4 carucates in demesne in thainland

over and above that which paid geld, and 42 villains and 8 borderers. Now the Abbot of Ely has there 4 ploughs, and 7 beasts, and 30 hogs, and one hundred and twenty sheep, and 1 horse, and 4 hives of bees, and 1 mill rendering 2 shillings, and 50 villeins, and 10 borderers. Between all these, twenty-five ploughs, and one hundred and sixty acres of meadow. Pannage in woods 60 acres. In the time of King Edward, with all which belongs there, worth sixteen pounds, and now twenty-two pounds. Altogether, 3 miles long and 2 miles broad. (The mile was equal to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ modern miles.) In Catworth, Abbot Turstin had 4 hides paying geld, Hamlet of Spaldwick, and 8 villeins with 8 ploughs. Now the Abbot of Ely has it and 7 villeins with two ploughs. And this is assessed in Spaldwick."

This schedule, now known as the *Inquisitio Eliensis*, being brought before the Domesday Commissioners, they took evidence thereon, and recorded it in Domesday Book in the following terms:—

"THE LAND OF THE ABBOT OF ELY.

"*a manor*—In Spaldwick the Abbot of Ely had 15 hides paying geld. There is land for 15 ploughs. There are still on the demesne 4 ploughs on 5 hides of this land, and 50 villeins and 10 borderers, having 25 ploughs. There is 1 mill worth 2 shillings yearly, and 160 acres of meadow and 60 acres of pannage in woods. In the time of King Edward worth 16 pounds, now 22 pounds.

"*a manor*—In Little Catworth, hamlet of Spaldwick, were 4 hides of land paying geld. There is land for 4 ploughs. There are now 7 villeins having two ploughs.

"THE LAND OF WILLIAM DE WARREN.

"*soc*.—In the other Catworth was 1 hide paying geld. There is land for 1 plough. This is a soc. Now held by Tored, of William, and he has there 1 plough and 1 borderer, and 12 acres of meadow. Worth 30 shillings. All this soc belongs to Kimbolton.

"CLAIMS.

"In Little Catworth the same Ulwyn (*i.e. Ulwyn-chit.*) had 1 hide, over which King Edward always had soc and soc, but he was able to give the land to whom he would, and to sell it. But the men of the County say that the King had given the land to Earl Waltheof.

"The County testifies that the third part of half a hide which lies in Easton, and pays geld in Bedfordshire, belongs to the Abbot of Ely's Manor of Spaldwick, and so the Abbot had it in the time of King Edward, and for five years after the

coming of King William. This, Eustace forcibly took from the church, and retains it."

About twenty years later Richard, Abbot of Ely, obtained the King's licence and the Pope's consent to make his Abbacy into a Bishopric;—but, dying before the change was completed, he was succeeded by Harvey, Bishop of Bangor, who in 1109 became first Bishop of Ely; and to compensate the Bishop of Lincoln, out of whose diocese the newly formed Bishopric was taken, the Monks of Ely made over to him the Manor of Spaldwick.

Spaldwick, during the time that it belonged to the Abbey of Ely, provided the Abbey with provisions for two weeks in each year.

It seems reasonable to suppose that no Church existed in the Manor at the time of Domesday, or it would be mentioned in that Book, as quite half the Churches of Huntingdonshire are, and indeed the architecture of the Churches of Spaldwick, Stow and Barham points to their having been built soon after the Manor came into the hands of the Bishop of Lincoln, while Easton church was probably not built until about the year 1250. The Bishop of Lincoln, having come into possession of the Soke of Spaldwick, appears to have retained to himself the principal Manor of Spaldwick, but formed the Manor of Stow into a Prebend, under the title of Stow Longa, endowing it also with the Improprate Rectory and Advowson of the Church of Spaldwick; and some two centuries later when the Prebend of St. Crucis was endowed with part of the tithes of Spaldwick, he took, also, its name as a subsidiary title.

In the 11th year of Henry III (1226-7), an *in-sapeximus* was made of a Deed dated 16th of King John (1214-5), granting to Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, permission to impark and esart, at will, the woods at Buckden and Spaldwick, &c., and the grove at Stow, saving to the King only the hunting. The same deed grants also to the Bishop, fairs and markets in any of his Manors at will.

Three years later (1229), a grant is made to Bishop Hugh, of deer leaps at his parks at Buckden, Spaldwick and Liddington.

At a perambulation of woods and forests in Co. Huntingdon, taken in 1301, it was proved that Henry II, in 1154, had afforested the whole County, especially mentioning a long list of woods and groves afforested to the serious loss of the Lords thereof; amongst these are:—

"A grove of Robert Wyne at Easton.

A grove of the Bishop of Lincoln at Stow.

A grove of Peter de Herdewyke at Easton."

And again, in 1300, the Bishop obtains a licence to impark his wood of Long Stow, with 100

acres of land adjoining, in Co. Huntingdon. At the taxation of 1291, the Spiritualities of the Vicarage of Spaldwick were taxed at £4 6s 8d; and of the Prebendal Caurch of Stow, with its chapels (Euston, Barham and Little Catworth), at £42 6s 8d.

Oliver Sutton (Bishop of Lincoln 1280-1300) was called upon to answer a writ of *Quo Warranto* as to his claim to have view of Frank Pledge in his Manors of Buckden, Spaldwick and Stilton, and other liberties, to which he replied that he claimed to have all liberties in the aforesaid Manors, *except murder*, because he and all his predecessors had had them hitherto, since the time when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, and he said that he had gallows and tumbrell in the Manors of Spaldwick and Buckden. And as to murder, he said that he and his men were quit of murder by virtue of a charter dated 1 Richard I. He said further that he claimed to hold the View of Frank Pledge twice a year, without the presence of the King's Bailiff, and that he gave nothing to the King for holding the View.

Whether his claim was allowed we know not.

From an Inquisition taken in the reign of Edward I. we learn that the Bishop of Lincoln then had in the Soke of Spaldwick:—In demesne—6 carucates of land and 20 acres of pasture, 24 other acres of pasture dispersed about, a wood of 20 acres called Stow Grove, a Park of 20 acres, a garden, and two windmills.

The Prior of Stoneley held a virgate of land in Stow, for which he paid the Bishop 12 shillings. The Bishop also had the following villeins rendering all customary suit and service, viz.:—In the Township of Spaldwick 19 villeins holding 6½ virgates at an annual rent of 6 shillings per virgate. In the Hamlet of Easton 10 villeins holding a virgate each, and 18 holding half a virgate each.

In the Hamlet of Upthorpe 16 villeins holding 9 virgates at a rent of 4 shillings per virgate.

In the Hamlet of Stow 18 villeins holding 10 virgates at 4 shillings per virgate.

In the Hamlet of Little Catworth 24 villeins holding 15½ virgates.

The Hamlet of Barham 20 villeins holding 12½ virgates.

The Hamlet of Little Catworth paid the Bishop 6 pence for one acre.

The Town of Spaldwick with the Soke still answers for 15 hides.

At the same Inquisition Lady Joan de Bohun had 15 villeins in the Hamlet called Stow (*this is Overstow, in the Parish of Kimbolton*), each holding half a virgate of land. Thomas de Bekering held one hide of land in Little Catworth which Richard de Molesworth formerly held, and

one hide of land which lies in Easton, which Simon de Herdwick formerly held. It is interesting to compare this Record with Domesday Book.

At the Inquisition of Niaths, in the year 1341, the Soke of Spaldwick was assessed as follows:

"Stow and Spaldwick with the Chapels—Taxed at £46 13s 4d.

"The same render £30 13s 4d for the ninth of the sheaves, fleeces, and lambs of the said parish, of which the portion of H. Burghershe, lately Bishop of Lincoln, was £4 15s 4d,—by the inquest of John de Dadington, William, son of Radulph, John de Bokinden, Andrew de Kelshull & others, men of the said parish, of which the Church with the Vicarage of Spaldwick is taxed at £46 13s 4d. And so the said ninth does not amount to the tax by £16, nor can it amount to it for the causes above said, as is computed on oath by John de Dadington, William, son of Radulph, John de Bokeden, Andrew de Kelshull, William Fremman, William, son of Robert, Thomas West, William Wene, Thomas, son of John, Roger Fremman, Geoffrey, son of John, Roger Fremman, and William de Bokeden, sworn before the said assessors."

In 1439, King Henry VI. granted to William, Bishop of Lincoln, a market in the town of Spaldwick, on Wednesdays, and two fairs yearly, one on SS. Philip and James' day (1st May), and one on the day of St. Hugh of Lincoln (17th Nov.)

The retention of the 'eleven days' has shifted this latter fair to the 28th November; the other fair and the market seem to have been lost, but old inhabitants have been heard to speak of a market at Upthorpe.

Another fair (for cattle) is now held on the Wednesday before Whit Sunday; this was granted in 1682.

The account of the property as given in the 'Valor Ecclesiasticus' of 1535 is too long to quote here, but it may be summarized as follows:—The clear value of the Bishop's property in Spaldwick was £70 13s 5½d, that of the Prebendary of Stow Longa £33 2s 2½d, the Vicarage of Spaldwick £12 0s 8d with £4 13s 4d, the profits of Easton and Barham. The Prior of Stoneley's holding in Stow and Overstow was worth £8 4s 1d.

In 1547 King Edward VI. forced Henry, Bishop of Lincoln, to exchange Spaldwick and its Soke, with many other manors for other property of considerably less value. The property so lost to the Bishop would seem to have included Spaldwick, Easton, Barham and Little Catworth; Stow remaining the property of the Prebendary, and as such is now in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The property remained in the

hands of the Crown for some seventy or eighty years; we find Philip and Mary holding a View of Frank Pledge here in 1555, and in 1622 James I. tried to levy a fine on the copyhold tenants of this Manor, but they appealed to the Court of Exchequer and obtained judgment in their favour. Between 1626 and 1641, King Charles I. sold the Manor of Spaldwick, &c., for £1500 to Henry, Earl of Manchester, who held a Court here in the latter year. The property still belongs to his descendant, the Duke of Manchester.

Having told the history of the Soke of Spaldwick, we will now consider the parishes separately.

SPALDWICK.

When Cardinal Pole made his visitation of the Diocese of Lincoln, in 1556,

"The Vicar of Spaldwick was presented for carrying in his arms his child, which he had in wedlock in the time of the schism, to the scandal of others. He was enjoined to carry it no more, and to make a recantation in the Church."

(We do not know the name of this Vicar).

At the same time the revenues of the Church of Spaldwick were sequestered until the chancel, which was dilapidated and ruined, was repaired.

Owen Evans, who was appointed Vicar of Spaldwick in 1613, was a rather notorious character, and was several times arrested for debt; one occasion, viz, on the 9th June, 1630, being Trinity Sunday, he and his servant were arrested as he left the pulpit, and taken to prison at Huntingdon until he paid a sum of £21.

He was made Prebendary of Spaldwick in 1641, but quitted it at the Restoration. His living of Spaldwick was sequestered in 1651.

The Church is dedicated to St. James, and consists of a chancel with south chapel, nave with clerestory and south aisle, south porch, and west tower and spire.

The north door is Norman of somewhat unusual design, and to the same period probably belongs the greater portion of the same wall up to the string under the clerestory windows. A fragment of Norman carving is built into the northern respond of the chancel arch. The nave arcade is of four bays of simple Early English character; the arches are plain, except for a row of nail head ornament in the hood-mould, and they stand on circular columns with moulded caps and bases. The chancel is of excellent Decorated work, with pretty tracery in the windows—there is a plain piscina with a shelf.

The chancel arch has spread at some time, necessitating a large buttress being built outside, on the north; it has been rebuilt with a curious

crank in its northern respond. It is of the same date as the chancel, and over it may be seen the marks of the roof of an earlier chancel.

Even the present chancel has been deprived of its high pitched roof, as may be seen by the awkward way in which the present roof cuts the head of the east window—but the old coping stones have been reused—this was probably done in 1556.

The next work in point of date is the glorious tower and spire, which are of late Decorated work, and undoubtedly amongst the best specimens of architecture this county can show. The west doorway is deeply recessed, and has continuous mouldings; over it is a good flowing Decorated two-light window, and over this, in the north, south, and west faces, a lozenge shaped window filled with tracery of late flowing Decorated character, which is not only very beautiful, but also probably unique in such a situation. The line of the old nave roof is still visible on the east wall. The belfry windows are double two-lights with transoms. The buttresses are square at the angles. The stairs start at the south-west angle, but half way up they cross over to the north-west angle, and are beautifully groined at the top. The whole is surmounted by an elegant broach spire with three tiers of lights on the cardinal faces; the two lowest tiers being two-lights with quatrefoils in the heads.

There are five bells inscribed:—

1. — GOD SAVE THE KING, 1635.
(32½ ins. dia.)
2. — ROBERT FILBRIGGE AND RICHARD EDWARDES, CHURCHWARDENS, 1635.
(32½ ins. dia.)
3. — CUM. SONO. SI. NON. VIS. VENIRE. NUNQUAM. AD PRECES. CUPIES IRE., 1635. (34½ ins. dia.)
4. — I.H.S. NAZARENUS. REX JUDEORUM. FILI DEI. MISERERE MEI., 1635. (38 ins. dia.)
5. — MI SOUNDINGE IS EACH ONE TO CALL TO SERVE THE LORDE, 1635.
(*And on the line above*)
BOETH GREAT AND SMALL. (42½ ins. dia.)

A fine ring, by Watts, of Leicester.

In 1552 there remained at Spaldwick, "Itm 4 bells and one Sauntus bell, 2 handbells. Itm one Sacring bell." (See Owen's "Church Bells of Hunts.)

The inscription on the third bell may be thus translated: "If you are not ready to come (to Church) when I ring, you will never want to come to pray."

The south aisle, south chapel, and porch are of good Perpendicular workmanship; they have

some good three-light and four-light windows. The south door is plain Early English.

The fragments of a good oak screen stand under the arch which separates the aisle from the chapel; it has been patched with parts of another screen, possibly that which stood under the chancel arch when Caveler wrote in 1851. The arch from the chapel into the chancel is also of Perpendicular character.

The chapel has a plain lean-to roof of old oak. It is said to be the Vicar's Chapel—one wonders if it were also the Chapel of the Guild of St. Mary, mentioned in a will in 1494. A late Perpendicular window has been inserted in the north wall of the nave, and a clerestory containing three plain Perpendicular two-lights with transoms has been built on the top of the older wall; it has a plain parapet of red bricks.

The clerestory over the arcade has three plain flat headed Perpendicular three-lights, and a red brick parapet. The roofs of the nave and aisle are modern, that over the porch is old oak; all are covered with slate.

The font, a plain octagon, stands at the west end of the aisle. It is of Early English date, and shows signs of once having had four angle shafts. A curious hole on the north side probably served as an outlet for the water. All the seats and furniture in the Church are modern. Outside the north door are two ancient sepulchral stones, probably of two former vicars.

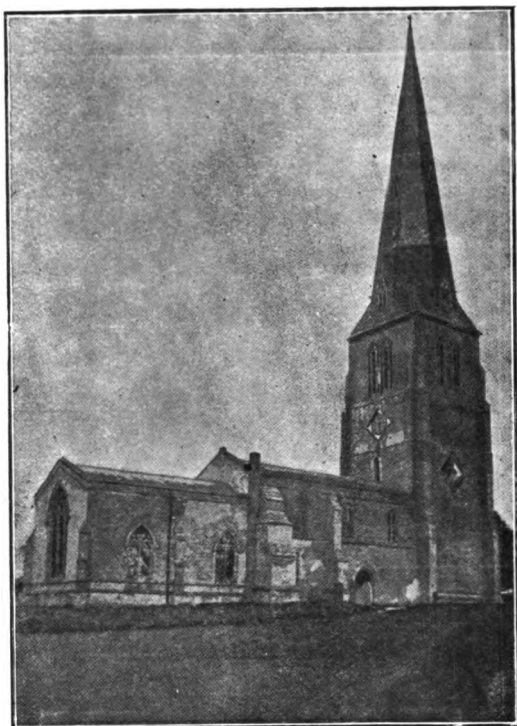
The Church plate is of silver-gilt, and bears the hall-mark of 1628-9. The chalice is inscribed:—

“This Communion cup and trencher was given by the Lady Magdalin Hide to the Church and Parrish of Spaldwick for the servis of the Lord's table, anno domini 1628.”

The trencher is similarly inscribed.

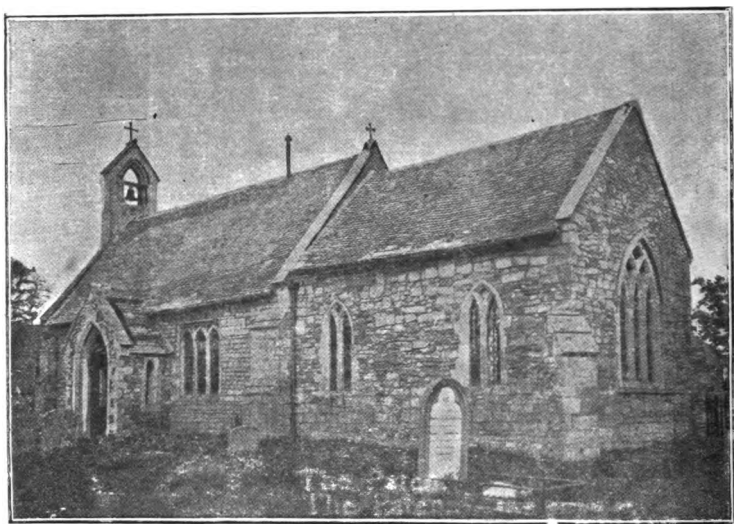
The Registers commence in 1688; from them we learn that there were 257 people in the parish in 1709, and 258 in 1801. They speak of a remarkable individual “John Cook (commonly called Long John Cook), buried 19th March, 1710-11.” The Church possesses memorials to the following Vicars, &c.:—Rev. Fleetwood Neville, died (4?) May, 1742, aged (40?), and Mary, his wife. Sarah (relict of Rev. John Davies, Vicar of Easton), died 2 June, 1819, aged 75. Rev. John Thompson, died 11 Feb., 1826, aged 73. James Mann, Surgeon, died 23 Sep. 1826, aged 32; and Rev. Richard Andrew, died 10 Feb., 1848, aged 48. From the Churchwardens' books, which commence in 1743, we learn that considerable work was done at the Church between 1810 and 1815, probably this is the time when the red brick parapets were built. The present roof of the nave was put on in 1846, Mr. Habershon being the Architect. The greater part of the spire was re-

SPALDWICK CHURCH.



View from N.E.

BARHAM CHURCH.



View from S.E.

built in 1850, and the upper part was again restored in 1873. A thorough restoration took place in 1862-3, with Mr. Edis for Architect. The works consisted of a new roof to south aisle, opening out the tower arch, tile pavings and steps, repairs to the chancel arch and north respond of same, and to nearly all the windows in the Church; new open seats, stalls, pulpit, and heating apparatus, &c. Some work seems to have been done to the great bell, in 1761, in which year Mr. Bayre was consulted about same, and a new wheel was supplied for it. In 1866 the tenor bell was taken down and rehung, and other works were done to the bells and frame in 1869 and 1871.

The present Vicar, the Rev. R. G. McClelland was appointed on the death of the Rev. G. T. Sharland, in 1898.

In the middle of the village stands the mutilated base of a cross, a fragment of a shaft is in Mr. Ashton's garden.

A short distance north-west of the Church, an ancient bridge of three plain stone gothic arches crosses the brook, it has been widened on the north side with red brick. There are several old houses in Spaldwick; one on the south side of the road is of red brick with tall pilasters on the front, and the initials P.D. 1688, over the door. Probably this house was built by one of the Dorringtons, a family living in Spaldwick as early as 1566, and concerning one of whom a strange tale is told. He was one of the King's gentleman pensioners, and in 1586 he owned a horse which died suddenly, and on dissecting it a large worm was found in its heart, which, being taken out was not easy to be described, "The length of which worm divided into many graines to the number of fifty (spread from the body like branches of a tree), was from the snout to the end of the longest grain seventeen inches, having four issues from the graines from which dropped forth a red water; the body in bigness round about was three inches and a half, the colour whereof was very like a mackerell." The worm was killed, and shown to many notable persons. This house was occupied at the beginning of the last century by William Ladds, who made the road from Easton towards the "Fox & Hounds" on the road between Ellington and Spaldwick. Later it has been occupied by the Ashton's and others.

Opposite to this house is another nice red brick house, now much dilapidated, and farther west on the south side of the road is a good plastered house. The ancient Manor house stood near the east end of the Church, where a row of modern cottages now stand. The present Vicarage house was built by Vicar Sanders (1850-61), at very considerable expense. The old Vicarage house stood

to the north of the Church, eastward of the present house.

At one time there was a windmill in the field to the south of the Vicarage garden, another was close to the village of Easton, and a third now stands on the hill going towards Barham; this last was burnt down some years ago and rebuilt. The two first mentioned have been removed the one from near Easton was removed to Ellington at the beginning of last century, and may be seen there yet.

Upthorpe was to the south of the church, on the old road leading to Easton, it has quite vanished, and nothing now remains but the name.

BARHAM.

The Church of St. Giles, at Barham, consists of a chancel, nave with north aisle, and south porch. The arcade, and the greater part of the nave, and the two end walls of the aisle are of late Norman workmanship, and of this period also are parts of the north wall of the chancel. The arcade is fine late Norman, of three bays, on two circular columns with good caps and bases, the latter having carved griffes. The chancel and chancel arch have been rebuilt in the earliest decorated style; and a window, much later in the style, has been inserted in the south wall of the nave, and another in the west wall, but this last has lost its head which has been replaced by one of Perpendicular date. A very late Perpendicular window has been inserted in the south wall, close to the porch. The north aisle porch and several buttresses were rebuilt about sixty years ago; the bell turret is also of this date, and this is also probably the time when the south door was taken down and rebuilt with a pointed, instead of a semi-circular arch.

Caveler, who wrote his notes in 1851, speaks of a plain Norman north door, but no signs of this are now visible; he also speaks of "a square bell cot at the west end," and "a south porch." The Church has one bell, 18 inches diameter, with the date 1841 upon it. It was made by Mears, of London. The font is a plain circular basin on an irregular octagonal shaft and three smaller circular ones with good Early English caps and bases. There are a few Renaissance oak seats at the west end, but the bulk of the pews, with all the furniture, and the nave roof are modern.

The Church possesses an Elizabethan Communion Cup, the hall mark on which is obliterated; and a paten dated 1878, given by Miss Grey, in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Earle.

The registers commence in 1688.

From the Lansdowne M.S. 921, we learn that in 1680, Richard Elmes, of Stow, enjoyed the

parsonage of Barham, by purchase from Rous; *i.e.*, he was lay-rector.

LITTLE CATWORTH.

As far back as the time of Domesday Little Catworth seems to have formed part of the Soke of Spaldwick, and it does so still. Ecclesiastically it is annexed to Stow. It once had a Chapel of its own—long since destroyed—it stood in the large field nearly opposite a farm house (this house is, as a matter of fact, in Great Catworth parish), and at the end of a row of cottages. Its position in the field was near the gate, and between the hedge and the pond in the middle; judging by the foundations, large portions of which still remain, it was about 80 feet long, and 20 feet wide.

In the same field, but much nearer to the cottages, will be observed three mounds, these are said to be the graves of the Revd.—Soame, his wife, and her sister. He was one of the Ministers ejected under the Act of Uniformity, 1662—perhaps the Revd. David Soame, appointed to Caldecote, 1657, and ejected 1662. His burial is not entered in Stow Register.

We do not know when the chapel was destroyed; it is said that people recently dead attended service there when they were young, but we are inclined to consider this to be a mistake.

Close to the pond, by the side of the road, there was a red brick dove-cot of seventeenth century date; this was pulled down in 1897. A small cottage on the hill was left to the parish by a man named Tibbs, who built it; it goes by the name of Charity Hall.

Christopher Drewell, of Little Gidding, who made his will in 1504, left land in Little Catworth to his son Robert.

STOW LONGA.

This Church stands on higher land than any other Church in the county, and was probably built soon after the property came into the hands of the Bishop of Lincoln, *viz.* in 1109. It is dedicated to St. Botolph, and consists of chancel, nave with clerestory and two aisles, and west tower.

A fine Norman door, with curiously carved tympanum, still does duty as a priest's door: the meaning of the carving has been variously interpreted;—Mr. Romily Allan says that it is a reference to XIII chap. Isaiah, verse 21, which the mediæval writers render "Syrens and demons shall dance there, and herenacii and centaurs shall dwell in their houses;"—the figure in the centre being a syren—close to which will be seen a small altar; Mr. Keyser suggests that the figure on the right is intended to represent the Agnus

Dei; while yet a third suggestion is that the carving represents St. Brendan preaching to the beasts and fishes. This interesting door, with the exception of the heads of some small windows and one or two other fragments found in the walls during the restorations of recent years, is all that remains to us of the Norman Church.

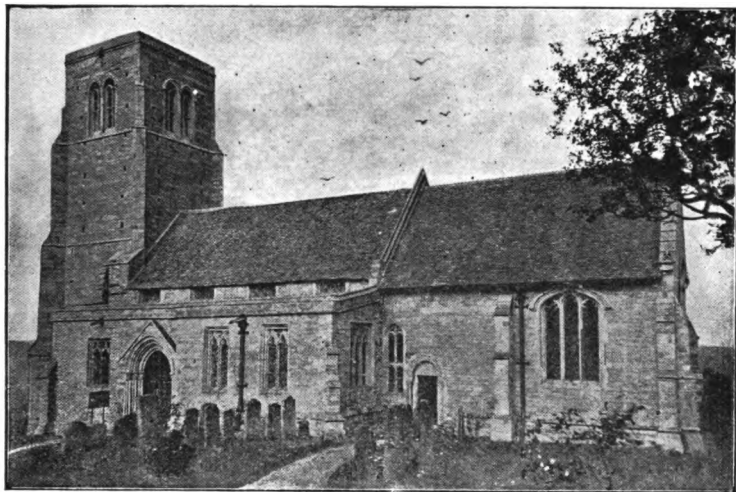
In the thirteenth century the Church was rebuilt and enlarged to its present size; the greater part of the walls of this thirteenth century Church still remain, together with the chancel arch and nave arcades.

Some mistake must have been made in setting out the north arcade, causing it to be taken down and rebuilt (probably when the Late Decorated windows were inserted in the aisle walls, and the Lady Chapel built), for the western respond stands some inches to the north of the original base, which it does not fit, and it has some appearance of being Decorated work.

In the middle of the fourteenth century the Lady Chapel was built at the east end of the south aisle. Its walls are not square with the rest of the church, the cause of which is not at first apparent; but, on examination, it is found that the chancel arch has spread, pushing the eastern part of the arcade wall with it, and the walls of the Lady Chapel are parallel with this part of the arcade wall. At this time also windows of similar character were inserted in the aisle walls. The south arcade has also been rebuilt, but in a far different manner to that on the north. Here there are evident signs of poverty. The work is done in a careless clumsy manner: broken 'drums' of the columns are built into the wall, and the deficiency made good by tilting the bases, thus making the columns shorter than those on the north. In the absence of records we can but suggest a cause for this clumsiness. In the year 1362 a destructive storm is known to have occurred, and it probably blew down the thirteenth-century tower, which destroyed the arcade, leaving, however, the western respond intact. Now, as this was the year of the second Great Plague, which raged from August 15th, 1361, to May 3rd, 1362, it is conceivable that the people were so much impoverished that they could do no more than rebuild the arcade and roof sufficiently to make the Church fit for use, leaving the tower to be rebuilt when they had recovered their prosperity. The present tower was built quite at the end of the same century, and is a fine specimen of Early Perpendicular work. Over the door are two coats-of-arms with a mitre between them; they bear:—

I.....on a chevron.....between three Church bells.....as many escallops.....all within a bordure.....

STOW LONGA CHURCH.
(BEFORE RESTORATION.)



South View.

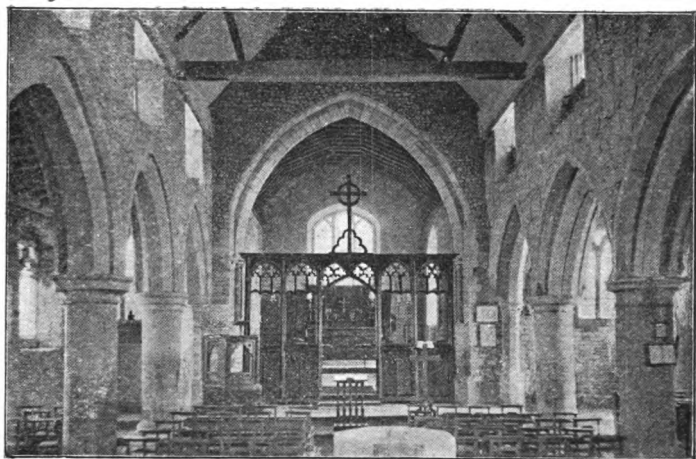


Priest's door.

STOW LONGA CHURCH.
(BEFORE RESTORATION.)

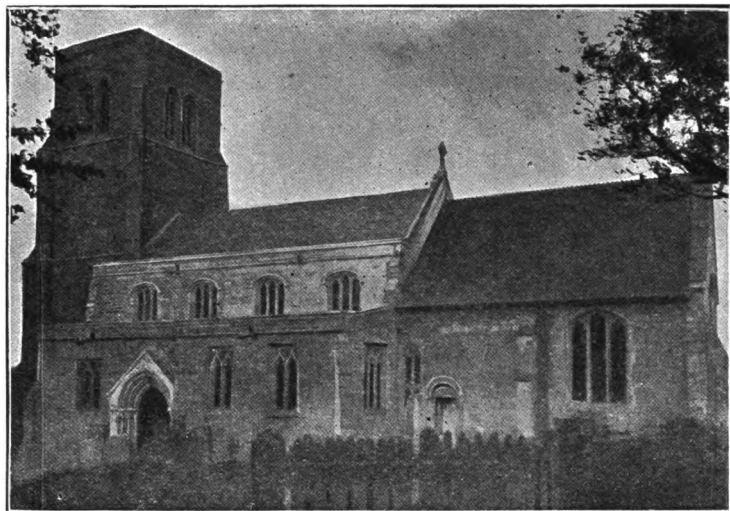


Interior (West.)



Interior (East.)

STOW LONGA CHURCH.
(AS RESTORED.)



South View.



Interior (East.)

IIa chevron between three roses.....

All our efforts to find the owners of these two coats have been fruitless.

There is one bell (28ins. dia.) made by Henry Jordan of London, who died 1468, and inscribed, 'Sancte Petre, ora pro Nobis.' There is a tradition that two bells from this Church were sold at Kimbolton about the beginning of the nineteenth century, and now hang at Covington. There were certainly three bells here in 1552, and one Sauntus bell (see Owen's *Church Bells of Hunts*, p. 134).

Perhaps the prebendary who built this tower lies under the matrix of a fine floriated cross in the chancel floor—*requiescat in pace*.

Large parts of the chancel walls and all its windows are of this date; so also was the clerestory, which was destroyed probably in the seventeenth century. The church stands on the top of a hill, and, in all likelihood, wind was again the destroying agent, blowing down the roof, doubtless, decayed with age—and with it the clerestory; to save the expense of rebuilding, the walls were levelled and the present barn-like roof put on.

In 1837 the county of Huntingdon was separated from the Diocese of Lincoln, and added to that of Ely; and in 1869 an Order in Council was procured, rearranging the livings of the four churches of the Soke of Spaldwick, held at that time by the Rev. George Thomas Sharland, as Vicar of Spaldwick, and by the Rev. John Bligh, as Vicar of Easton and perpetual Curate of Stow and Barham. This rearrangement came into force on the death of Mr. Bligh in 1876, when Mr. Sharland became Vicar of Spaldwick with Barham, and his son, the Rev. George Edward Sharland, was appointed Vicar of Easton with Stow.

His first work was to restore the church at Stow; lath and plaster had to be removed from the chancel and tower arches, white-wash scraped from the walls, the font, the chancel (restored with the aid of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners), the old unseemly pews (replaced by chairs), the fine oak screen, the nave walls, the floor (lowered to its original level), the eighteenth century south porch (removed, opening to view the fine south door), the glass in the windows, all received attention, for, to him, no trouble, no expense is too great for God's house and His service.

Having done all this he proceeded to take in hand the restoration of the clerestory and the roofs of nave and Aisles. Large parts of the clerestory windows had been found in the porch walls and these, with other evidences of what the clerestory once was, being put before Mr. S. Inskip Ladds, A.R.I.B.A., of Huntingdon, plans were forthwith prepared for the restoration.

Sufficient evidence as to the original form of the roof not being in existence fresh designs were made for it, the object aimed at being to reuse the old tiles, to follow the native style of the district, and to produce a strong and durable roof; three of the old tie beams have been introduced into the new design, thus forming a link with the seventeenth century roof, which did duty for more than a hundred years.

In 1901, funds having been collected, the work was commenced, Mr. Ashley (St. Neots), Messrs. Wrycroft (St. Neots), and Messrs. Peacock and Sons (Huntingdon and Brampton) being the principal firms employed. Weldon stone has been used, and English oak (from Messrs. Francis and Sons, of Huntingdon).

The font is octagonal with a circular stem and Early English moulded cap; the base, of the same period, was found in the Vicarage garden at Spaldwick.

On a monument in the chancel is a brass plate to Sir Thomas Maples, Bart., died 1634, and a matrix below contained an inscription to his wife, recorded in the Lansdown M.S., 921, and as it has not previously been published we will quote it in full:—

“ Here lieth Agnes, ye wife of Thomas Maples, Esq., who was buried ye 26th of August, 1624.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| All natures parts and | In her excell'd, in her |
| graces all divine | they all did shine. |
| To husband kynde, he | Esteemed his jewell and |
| her beyond all measure, | his chiefest treasure. |
| For whose sake one by | For widdowes three, |
| one for her sake, | three houses he did |
| | make, |
| Her self, her Christ | Hence death of life, |
| with open armes | most cruelly bereav'd |
| receav'd her | her.” |

The same manuscript also records inscriptions to Robert Dorrington, of Stow, gent., died 1 June, 1615, aged 72, and Ellynor, his wife, buried 28 April, 1616. These are not now to be found, but there are stones to Richard Elmes Esq., died 1 Jan., 1682, aged 46, and Mrs. Ann Elmes, died 4 Sep., 1682, aged 69; also to Mary Bligh, died 1 Sep., 1856, aged 76, and Timothy Brent Bligh, died 1 April, 1867, aged 76.

The following inscription is cut in stone, on the south wall of the tower:—*Orate p aiab Robti Becke et Alicie uxori.*

There have been many conjectures as to whether the Church towers at Leighton or Stow Longa reach the higher altitude, and this has now been set at rest by consulting the 6 inch Ordnance Map, and measuring the towers with an 100 foot tape. The result was that while Stow stands upon ground some 15 feet higher than Leighton, the pinnacles of the latter overtop the

parapet at Stow by 18 inches, the exact figures being as follows, (given in feet and decimal parts of a foot)—

| | <i>Leighton.</i> | <i>Stow.</i> |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| Bench mark (height above Ordnance datum)..... | 206·3 | 225·7 |
| Parapet of tower (height above Bench mark)... | 64·0 | 55·8 |
| Pinnacles (height above parapet) | 12·75 | |
| Total height | 283·05 | 281·5 |

The Bench Mark at Leighton is 2·5 above the ground, and at Stow Longa 7·0—thus the ground at Leighton is 203·8, and at Stow 218·7 above Ordnance datum. Probably no Church in Huntingdonshire stands on higher ground than Stow does, and it is only its lofty pinnacles that enable Leighton to beat it in total height.

The Church possesses a silver paten bearing the oldest known date letter of the London office, viz., that for 1491-2, and the chalice is hall-marked for 1577-8

A reredos of oak, erected in 1900., from a design by Mr. S. Inskip Ladds, preserves an ancient carved panel turned out of an Oxfordshire Church some fifty years ago.

The registers commence in 1698, they state that the population of Stow in 1709 was 143, and in 1801, 118.

The ancient Manor House stands at the opposite end of the village, it was a fine building of timber and plaster, with red brick chimneys and tile roofs, but is now all but a ruin. The Hall was a large apartment with two fire places, but has been cut in half in forming a modern house out of one end of the mansion. Some fine carved oak chimney pieces of Renaissance design have been removed, but the staircase still remains.

A coat of arms (Sa. 3 bugle horns argent stringed or), has vanished from one of the windows but a small fragment of it is preserved at the Vicarage; it is the arms of Thurston. The will of Wm. Thurston was proved in 1637. John Brocket and Katherine his wife were of Long Stow about 30, Henry VIII., whether they lived in this house we do not know, but Robert Dorrington, who was buried in 1613, is said to have built (? rebuilt) the 'high timber house at Stow'. About 1680, Richard Elmes occupied the house that Dorrington built, and after his death it became the residence of Edward Huxby, late of Adstone, Norths., who married the sister and heir of Richard Elmes. The estate is now held under a lease granted in 1837, by the Prebendary of Stow Longa, for three lives.

In the middle of the village is the base and

stem of a fine cross, the head has gone, and in its place is a modern iron vane in the shape of a fox.

Robert Throckmorton, of Offord Darcy, who died 1664, left property in Stow, Upthorpe and Spaldwick to his son, Albion, who is believed to have lived here.

EASTON.

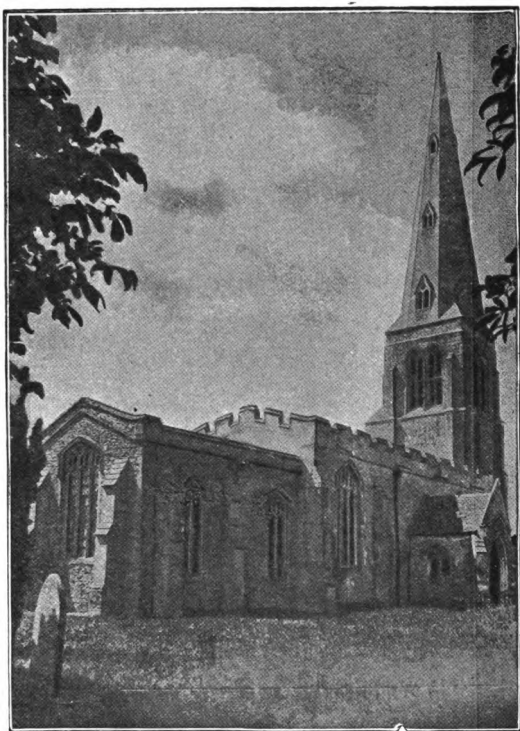
In the reign of Edward I. a certain cleric named Peter de Herdewick owned land in Easton; we have mentioned him before, and in the Patent Rolls, 2 Edward I. he is arraigned by Simon de Kingston, on a writ of *novel disseisin* touching a tenement in Easton. Robert and William Bedell were of Easton in 7 James I.

The Church of St. Peter, Easton, was apparently founded considerably later than the other three Churches of the Soke of Spaldwick; it consists of chancel, nave with clerestory and south aisle, north porch and west tower and spire. There is no sign of any work of earlier date than the Thirteenth Century, and of this period nothing remains but the nave arcade, and the font. The arcade consists of four bays of plain arches on circular columns, the moulded caps and bases of which are much hacked about and patched with cement.

The font is a massive square with the angles roughly chamfered off; it stands on a modern stem and base, at the west end of the nave. Next in point of date comes the south aisle; this has three plain two-light windows, a plain piscina, and a good door in the south wall, and a three-light square headed window in both the east and the west walls—all of late Decorated date. The ironwork on the door has a resemblance to the work of Thomas de Leghton, who made the wrought iron grille for Queen Eleanor's tomb in Westminster Abbey, but it is inferior to his work, and when it is remembered that he would be dead long before this aisle was built, it may reasonably be surmised that one of his successors used his tools and did his best to follow in the great smith's footsteps; the little larpets and stamped bosses are not known to have been used by any other English smith. This aisle has an ancient oak roof, and a brick parapet. Both walls and roof are in a very bad state, and will very shortly have to be rebuilt.

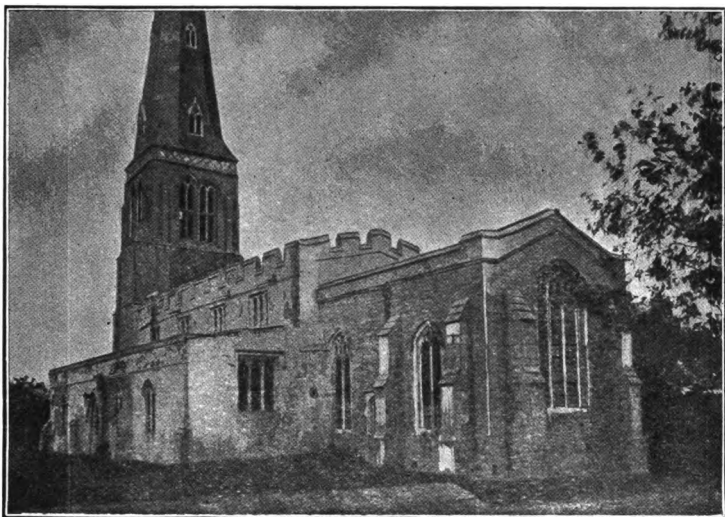
The clerestory over the nave arcade is of about the same date as the aisle; it has four three-light square headed windows, a plain parapet, and some excellent lead rain water shoots. Other good lead shoots are in various parts of the Church. The rest of the Church is Perpendicular. The chancel has a good three-light east window, and two-lights at the sides, the westernmost having better tracery than the others. There is a

EASTON CHURCH.

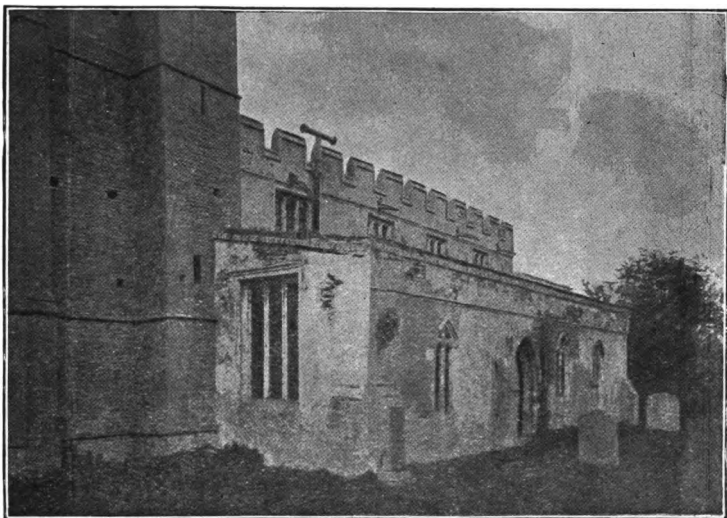


North East View.

EASTON CHURCH.



South East View.



South West View.

These two views show the decayed South Aisle.

plain priest's door on the south. The chancel arch is Perpendicular; the rood stairs still remain on the south side in a perfect condition. Under this arch are the remains of a very fine oak screen of the earliest Perpendicular workmanship. The nave has two large windows with transoms, and a plain door in the north wall. To the east of this door is an old stone jamb nearly covered with plaster, some of which, being removed in 1897, revealed the fact that the wall has been too much patched with brick to leave any chance of identifying the use of this jamb. The nave roof is of oak, flat, and richly ornamented with the egg and tongue ornament; it is dated 1630. The porch is plain Perpendicular, with two-light windows in the sides. A stoup, now in the vicarage garden at Stow, exactly fits a place in the south-east corner of this porch. The pitch of the roof has been considerably raised; the original flat pitch may be distinctly traced on the gable.

The tower was built in about the best period of the Fifteenth Century; it has a plain west door with a large three-light window over it, and above that a good two-light. The beifry windows are double two-lights with transoms. A band of ornament runs under the broach spire, which has three tiers of spire light on the cardinal faces, the two lowest of which are of two-lights with quatre foils in the heads. There are four bells, thus inscribed:—

1.—HENRY PENN MADE ME, 1718.
(30ins. dia.)

2.—SANCTA MAREA — (34ins. dia.)

3.—MR. WHITEHEAD, c. w. TAYLOR
AND SON, FOUNDS, ST. NEOTS, 1821.
(35ins. dia.)

4.—PRAISE THE LORDE. (39ins. dia.)

The second and fourth are by Newcombe, of Leicester, c. 1530. Mr. Owen, in his "Church Bells of Hunts," says that in 1552 there were remaining "Item 4 belles and a Sauntus bell."

The pulpit is of mahogany, and was brought by the present vicar from South Shields. Some of the benches are plain Gothic, others have fragments of Renaissance mouldings, but the bulk of the furniture in the Church is modern.

Tombstones are recorded to have been in the church to the memory of Revd. Samuel Leonard, Vicar, died 20 April, 1737, aged 82. Jeremie Taylor, Vicar of Brampton, and Sarah his wife, died c. 1779, and John Taylor, physician and surgeon, died 1769.

The Church plate consists of a chalice, marked for the year 1659-60, and of somewhat curious design having the appearance of being made up

of two separate pieces of plate; and a modern paten, dated 1875-6.

The chancel was restored in 1871, Mr. John Ladds, of London, being the Architect. All the stonework was thoroughly repaired, and a new oak roof (similar to the old one) put on. Since then, work has been constantly going on in the nave, &c. The tower has been repointed, the font restored, new altar made, new floors laid and all the windows reglazed. Surely the Vicar who has done so much for his Church, and be it remembered that he has, at the same time, thoroughly restored his other Church (Stow Longa) deserves substantial support in the work he is now taking in hand, viz; the restoration of the aisle.

S. INSKIP LADDS.

Market-place, Huntingdon.

Feb. 1902.



This book should be returned
to the Library on or before the last
stamped below.

A fine of five cents a day is incurred
by retaining it beyond the specified
time.

Please return promptly.

Br 3917.2
A short history of the soke of Spal
Widener Library 005876994



3 2044 081 189 912